

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit



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CDF PLANS WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING BURN

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), San Mateo County Fire, the Half Moon Bay Fire Protection District and the La Honda Fire Brigade will be participating in a wildland training burn at the Peninsula Open Space Trust's, Cloverdale Ranch, in Pescadero. The training is scheduled for August 13 and 14 -- weather permitting -- and will involve at least 12 engines, two water tenders and over 70 firefighters from the surrounding areas. The fires used in this training will range in size from a few square feet to several acres at a time. Planners expect to burn approximately 50 acres in total, over the course of two days.

Firefighters will be trained in tactics and methods used in wildland firefighting and will participate in drills to practice these skills. "This training will provide firefighters with valuable experience in preparation for this year's fire season," said John Sims, CDF/San Mateo County Fire Division Chief. "Live fire training exercises such as this are critical in teaching firefighters how to quickly extinguish wildland fires while ensuring for both their and the public's safety. We are grateful that the Peninsula Open Space Trust sees the value in providing a venue for such important training."

Other benefits of this fire include enhancing the habitat of the coastal terrace prairie by reducing competition from non-native annual grasses and encouraging the perennial native grasses and wildflowers. Burning during the summer on the Cloverdale Ranch has proven to be an effective tool for enhancing the habitat. A prescribed burn on 160 acres of the Cloverdale Ranch is also planned for later this year.

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